

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 31, 2004. Claims 34-53 are presented for examination, of which Claims 34-45, 52 and 53 are in independent form. Claims 34-41, 45, 52 and 53 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 34-44 and 48-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,288,485 B1 (Takegami et al.), assigned in common with the present invention, and Claims 45-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Takegami* in view of U.S. Patents 6,063,125 (Stendardo et al.) And 5,751,925 (Kataoka et al.) .

Applicants note that *Takegami* is assigned in common with the present application, and was assigned in common when the present invention was made. Accordingly, that patent is only available as prior art against the present application for purposes of anticipation. This avoids the rejection of Claims 45-47.

As is discussed in the application in greater detail, various difficulties are encountered in the construction of a cold-cathode type multi-electron-beam electron source. That type of electron source has many attractive features, but certain practical problems that have been encountered interfere greatly with the ability to benefit from the advantages of

this type of source. For example, when the power source for the electron source is activated (and again when it is deactivated), there is a period of time before the outputs that are applied to the row- and column-direction wiring lines stabilize, and during this period, damage can occur to the cold cathode devices.

Again, if the acceleration potential (used to accelerated the emitted electrons) is much greater than the potential used to cause electron emission (for example, if the difference is over 500 V (and still more with greater differences, which in practice may be 3,000 V or even 5,000 V), an unexpected (and undesired) operation may occur; in such case, the result may include a highly undesirable display (one that is actually uncomfortable to the viewer), and the performance of the display panel itself may be changed (for example, the characteristics of the fluorescent material may be affected). The present application discloses a number of arrangements that permit one to avoid these problems.

Independent Claim 34 is directed to an image display apparatus that comprises a display panel for displaying an image by irradiating a fluorescent substance with electrons from an electron source, a scanning circuit for supplying a scanning signal to the display panel, and a modulation circuit for supplying a modulation signal to the display panel. A pulse generating circuit is provided for generating pulse signals at a

predetermined time period, and also provided is a control circuit. The control circuit, as recited in Claim 34, is for stopping output from the scanning circuit or the modulation circuit, or both, to the display panel until the pulse generating circuit generates a predetermined number of pulse signals at the initial stage after a power source is turned on.

Takegami relates to a technique for driving a display apparatus while working, but does Applicants submit that nothing in that document would teach or suggest any particular technique or approach to processing at the initial stage after a power source is turned on or the power source is turned off, and certainly does not teach or suggest the mentioned feature that is recited in Claim 34, that is, the control circuit that stops output from the scanning circuit or the modulation circuit, or both, to the display panel until the pulse generating circuit generates a predetermined number of pulse signals at the initial stage after a power source is turned on.. For at least that reason, Claim 34 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Takegami*.

Similarly, independent Claims 35-41, 52 and 53 are directed to techniques for processing at the initial stage after power is turned on, while Claims 42-45 are directed to techniques for processing at the timing of turning off the power or switching to a second power source from a first power source.

For example, independent Claim 35 is directed to an image display apparatus, that comprises a display panel for displaying an image by irradiating a fluorescent substance with electrons from an electron source, a scanning circuit for supplying a scanning signal to the display panel, a modulation circuit for supplying a modulation signal to the display panel, and a pulse generating circuit for generating pulse signals at a predetermined time period. A control circuit for controlling the scanning circuit or the modulation circuit, or both, so as to output the scanning signal or the modulation signal (or both) after the pulse generating circuit generates a predetermined number of pulse signals *at the initial stage* after a power source is turned on.

For the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 34, independent Claim 35 also is deemed allowable over *Takegami*.

Moreover, since each of the other independent claims recites features similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 34, those claims are each deemed clearly allowable over *Takegami*.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

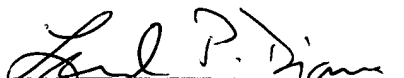
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

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